

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A generally oval battery including a battery case having a generally oval cross section, a generally oval sealing plate, and an electrode plate assembly, said sealing plate having a U-shaped cross section, and said battery having a thickness of 4mm or more and an aspect ratio of 3 or more, wherein ~~an intersecting point between~~ a location where the shape of the battery case changes from a circular part and to a linear part ~~or from a linear part to a circular part~~ in an interface between said battery case and the sealing plate acts as a point where breakage occurs for discharge of gas.

2. (Previously Presented) The generally oval battery according to claim 1, wherein said battery case is tubular with open ends.

3. (Previously Presented) The generally oval battery according to claim 1 ~~or 2~~, wherein said battery case and said sealing plate are joined together by welding.

4. (Previously Presented) The generally oval battery according to claim 2, wherein said battery case and said sealing plate are joined together by welding.